

## ICE STORAGE

Refrigeration in Midway's early years was accomplished through cutting and storing of ice in chilly winter months and utilizing it in the hot days of summer.

As sub-zero winter weather formed thick layers of ice on lakes and ponds, crews would take large saws and cut the ice into chunks that could be stored. Usually the ice was cut into blocks weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. The blocks were carried by sleighs to storage houses where they were stacked and covered by thick layers of sawdust.

Persons with lakes or ponds on their property would usually sell the ice for 15 cents a ton if the buyer would cut it, or as much as 50 cents a ton if it was pre-cut.

Two-man, cross-cut timber saws were used to cut the ice, with the handle on one end of the saw removed. Lines for sawing were laid out on the ice with a straight board. Ice tongs were used to remove the chunks of ice. The work was slippery and cold, and many a man fell into the icy cold water and had to be dried out before he could resume working. Teams of horses were known to break through the ice also, creating great excitement and often suffering before the animals could be hauled out of their freezing predicaments.

As summer time came, the saw-dust would be scraped or washed from the ice to provide refrigeration. If properly stored, the ice would usually last through most of the summer.

Ice entrepreneurs included Marks Jeffs and Nels Johnson who sold from the mill pond. The Rasband brothers had a pond west of the Provo River bridge between Midway and Heber. Retail outlets for ice included Coleman's Store, William Watkins and William L. Van Waggoner's stores. 578

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

579

Some of the early ice cutters included George T. Watkins, John Luke, Fred Haueter, Ulrich Kuhni, Albert Lockner, Joseph Galli and Joseph Abegglen.

## ICE STORAGE

Refrigeration in Midway's early years was accomplished through cutting and storing of ice in chilly winter months and utilizing it in the hot days of summer.

As sub-zero winter weather formed thick layers of ice on lakes and ponds, crews would take large saws and cut the ice into chunks that could be stored. Usually the ice was cut into blocks weighing between 100 and 125 pounds. The blocks were carried by sleighs to storage houses where they were stacked and covered by thick layers of sawdust.

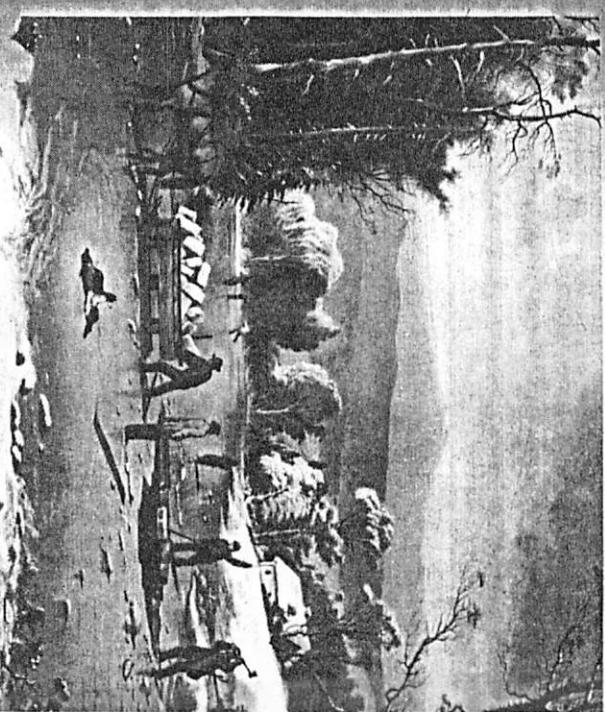
Persons with lakes or ponds on their property would usually sell the ice for 15 cents a ton if the buyer would cut it, or as much as 50 cents a ton if it was pre-cut.

Two-man, cross-cut timber saws were used to cut the ice, with the handle on one end of the saw removed. Lines for sawing were laid out on the ice with a straight board. Ice tongs were used to remove the chunks of ice. The work was slippery and cold, and many a man fell into the icy cold water and had to be dried out before he could resume working. Teams of horses were known to break through the ice also, creating great excitement and often suffering before the animals could be hauled out of their freezing predicaments.

As summer time came, the saw-dust would be scraped or washed from the ice to provide refrigeration. If properly stored, the ice would usually last through most of the summer.

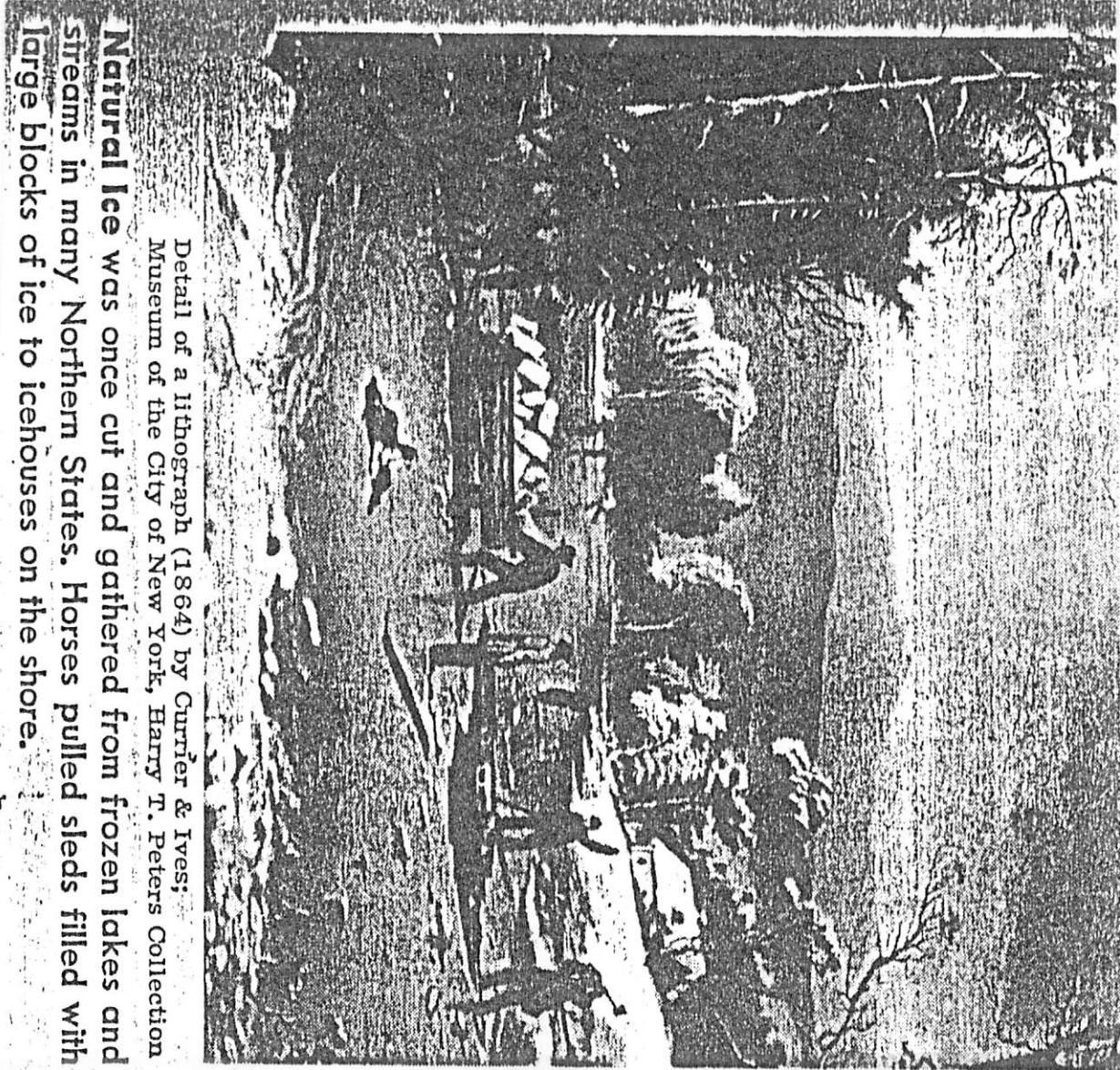
Ice entrepreneurs included Marks Jeffs and Nels Johnson who sold from the mill pond. The Rasband brothers had a pond west of the Provo River bridge between Midway and Heber. Retail outlets for ice included Coleman's Store, William Watkins and William L. Van Waggoner's stores.

**History of U.S. Ice Industry.** Natural ice was used commercially in the United States before the development of ice-making machines. In many Northern



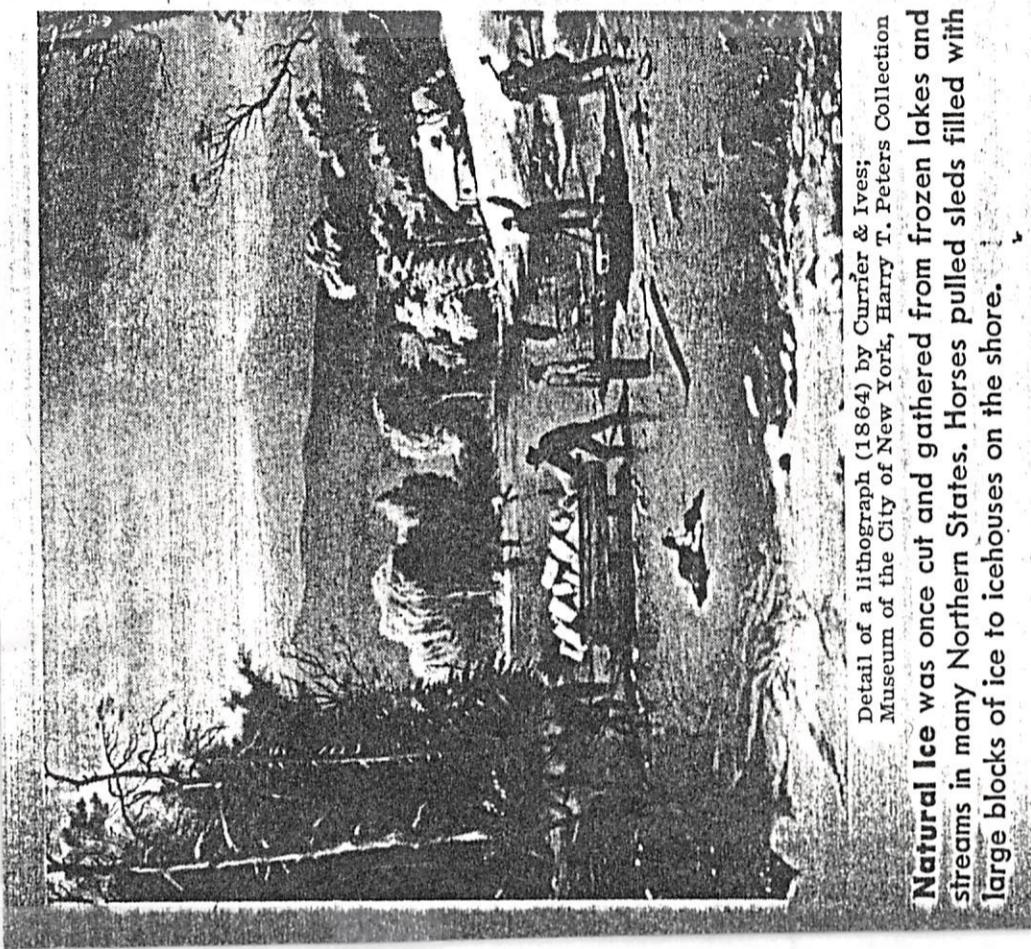
Detail of a lithograph (1864) by Currier & Ives;  
Museum of the City of New York, Harry T. Peters Collection

**Natural Ice** was once cut and gathered from frozen lakes and streams in many Northern States. Horses pulled sleds filled with large blocks of ice to icehouses on the shore.



Detail of a lithograph (1864) by Currier & Ives;  
Museum of the City of New York, Harry T. Peters Collection

**Natural Ice** was once cut and gathered from frozen lakes and streams in many Northern States. Horses pulled sleds filled with large blocks of ice to icehouses on the shore.



Detail of a Lithograph (1864) by Currier & Ives;  
Museum of the City of New York, Harry T. Peters Collection  
**Natural Ice** was once cut and gathered from frozen lakes and  
streams in many Northern States. Horses pulled sleds filled with  
large blocks of ice to icehouses on the shore.

